

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** ULMUS PROCERA

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** 7 Whyte Street, 3 Whyte Street, Picnic Reserve Glenelg Highway,  
Railway Reserve Pilleau Street COLERAINE

**STUDY NUMBER:** 057

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** Coleraine

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 430J. Located in the Railway Reserve, and on the south side of Whyte Street, between Young and Turnbull Street, on the south side of Whyte Street.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Ulmus Procera (English Elms), Whyte Street, Coleraine

**Image Date:** 02/09/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. The remaining examples of Ulmus procera present in Whyte Street and the Pilleau Street side of the Railway Reserve.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Six mature specimens of *Ulmus procera*, located in Whyte Street and the Pilleau Street side of the railway reserve. The trees are in varying condition, all of at least 110 years of age.

## **HISTORY:**

In 1896, Cr. Eugene Silvester drew to the Council's attention the 'desolate appearance of Coleraine streets' and the council moved that deciduous trees be planted on both sides of Whyte Street in the shopping area as a forerunner to further plantings in the future. The council decided to plant English Elms, and to purchase the trees from a nursery in Ballarat. On recommendation from Cr. Eugene Silvester and the supplying nursery, a number of semi-mature (ten year old) trees were planted. The council undertook a program of beautification through the planting of these street trees for some years. The trees extended from Whyte Street to the other, and were also located in the secondary streets. These trees remained in Whyte Street until 1961. The need for water mains to be laid on either side of Whyte Street prompted the first appeal from the Shire Engineer for the trees to be removed; it was stated that the trees were unhealthy, intrusive and dangerous and causing extensive damage to the Glenelg Highway.

The suggestion that historically significant trees be removed from Coleraine divided the town. Those who wished to remove the trees were primarily those who would benefit from mains water, or those who had recently discovered natives and wished to re-plant European species with native species. There was very strong debate in the newspapers and at council meetings. However, on Tuesday, February 16, 1961, the majority of Coleraine's street trees were removed. The only trees which survived were those which were set far back from the road or had been incorporated into private gardens.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

8.1.3 Developing public parks and gardens

8.1.4 Living in the country and rural settlements

## **CONDITION:**

The *Ulmus procera* in Whyte Street are generally in fair to poor condition, those trees in the railway reserve are in good condition.

## **INTEGRITY:**

Low degree of integrity, as they are all that survive of an extensive planting.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

Six mature specimens of *Ulmus procera*, three located in Whyte Street and three located in the railway reserve abutting Pilleau Street, Coleraine. The three in Whyte Street are located in the picnic area 1.1km to the east of the township, in front of a residence at 3 Whyte Street and in the front garden of 7 Whyte Street. The trees were planted as a result of local Councillor, Cr. Eugene Silvester's desire to improve the appearance of Coleraine's Streets. In 1896, the trees were planted as semi-mature ten year old specimens. There were originally located along the whole stretch of Whyte Street, and the remainder were planted in Pilleau Street.

How is it significant?

The *Ulmus procera* street trees are of historical and aesthetic significance to the township of Coleraine.

Why is it significant?

The *Ulmus procera* street trees which remain in Coleraine represent a typical late nineteenth century street planting. They are important as they were planted as a result of community pressure and council support to beautify what was a relatively new and growing township. The trees are of aesthetic significance as they provide an representative sample of what the main Streetscape in Coleraine may have looked like up to the early 1960s.

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The remaining trees provide us with an example of the changing nature of trends with plants and with communities, as they represent a popular street tree for the late nineteenth century, when contrasted with the strong movement in the 1970s to plant native trees.

**ASSESSED BY:** aen

**ASSESSMENT DATE:** 31-Aug-01

**EXISTING LISTINGS:**

**HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Include in VHR**  **Include in RNE**  **Include in Local Planning Scheme**

**No Recommendations for Inclusions**

**REFERENCES:**

Author	Title	Year	Page
	'Anyone Interested in Tree Planting?' - Coleraine Albion	18/07/1968	1968
	'Streets Tree Plan' Coleraine Albion		1961
	'Reminiscences of Whyte Street Trees' - Coleraine Albion	27/07/61	1961
	'70 Year-Old Trees Go in Improvement Preparation' Coleraine Albion		1961
	'Whyte Street Trees to Go' - Coleraine Albion,	18/05/1961	1961
	'Fate of Whyte St. Trees' - Coleraine Albion,	16/02/1961	1961